

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

12-150

Orleans

EAS.1323

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): North Eastham

Photograph



Address: 418 Schoolhouse Road

Historic Name: Lewis Ewell House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling Houses (2)

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1952-1970]

Source: USGS aerial survey, 1970 subdivision

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
2nd house (1982) and shed (see Photo 2)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
None on record

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.78 acres

Setting: This property is located on the east side of Schoolhouse Road and bordered on the south by Cestero Way. The surrounding area consists mostly of modest houses built in the mid- to late-20th century. This parcel has two houses – a ranch close to Schoolhouse Road built in 1982, and the ca. 1952-1970 cottage behind that house to the east. A clamshell driveway leads along the south side of the property.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

418 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Located towards the rear of this parcel is the older of the two houses. Built in ca. 1952-1970, the Lewis Ewell house consists of the 1½-story gable-roofed main block, and a stepped down ell on the west side. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. All doors and windows are modern replacements.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

There are two houses on this parcel – a ranch close to the street built in 1982, and a cottage behind that house that has an Assessor date of 1920. A subdivision map prepared in 1970 for Lewis A. Ewell shows just the cottage set back from the street on Lot 1 of this property subdivided into 7 lots (Figure 2). Unless the cottage was moved here from elsewhere, for which there is no evidence, this cottage was built sometime between 1952 and 1970.

Title research traces back to 1946, when William C. Cobb of Scituate and Freeman A. Cobb of Wilmington, DE, heirs of William W. Cobb, conveyed a 4.5-acre parcel, with reference to buildings, to the aforesaid Lewis A. Ewell of Rockland, MA.¹ The United States Geological Survey (USGS) began conducting aerial photographic surveys of Cape Cod in 1938. In that first aerial survey, the land on which this cottage was built remained forested and undeveloped. In the next USGS survey in 1952, when the land was owned by Lewis Ewell, again there is no house in this location (Photo 3). Lewis Ewell appears to have built this cottage sometime between 1952 and 1970 when he recorded a subdivision of this parcel with the house set back on Lot 1 (Figure 2).² Lewis Alfred Ewell (1907-1988), who never married, was listed as a carpenter in the 1950 census, so perhaps he had a hand at building this cottage.

In 1977, Ewell sold Lot 1 to George B. and Bernice E. Ulrich of Norfolk, MA.³ In 1991, Bernice was widowed and living on another of the lots along Cestero Way when she sold Lot 1 for \$1 to Pat DeVries (kinship unknown), who was listed living at this address.⁴ She continues to own this property with Dwayne DeWitt.

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 640/ Page 520.

² Plan Book 242/ Page 53.

³ Book 2527/ Page 317.

⁴ Book 7656/ Page 126.

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Photo 3. Detail of 1952 USGS aerial survey (black dot in future location of cottage added).

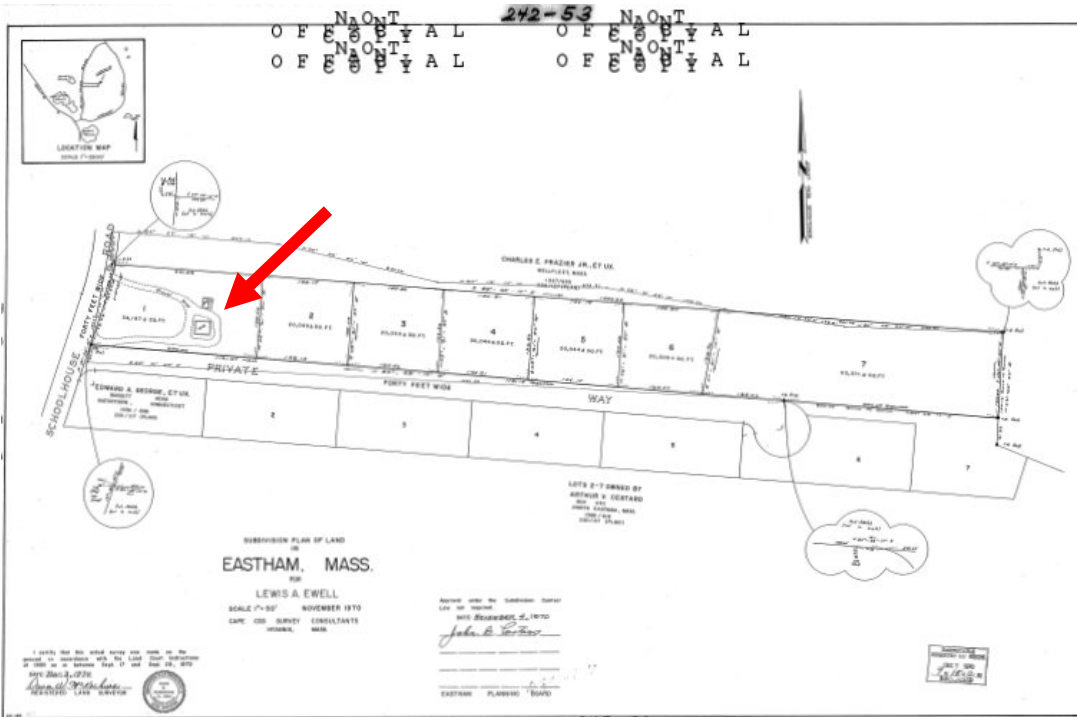


Figure 2. November, 1970 Subdivision of Land for Lewis Ewell (arrow to 418 Schoolhouse Road added).